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**EDU 702.22 – Spring 2010**

**Reflection #2**

This course is the foundation for our research project. It’s our starting point and that’s how I look at the *literature review*. The literature review will provide the structure I need to develop a paper that has merit and adds to the credibility of my argument. Without it, my assignment will just be filled with my opinions and thoughts, as if no theorist has ever had them or perhaps has done some research on the topic. By including the literature review, the foundation is strengthened by the fact that I’ve invested the time to respect and engage with what other people in the field have done already. Perhaps in the future, someone will be using *my* research as part of their own literature review.

Over these past few weeks I’ve come to the realization that lately my own “research” has been limited to trade publications such as *NeaToday* and *American Teacher.* Both good resources, but more “human interest” anecdotals. I receive these publications and I *do* read them…for enjoyment. Often nodding my head in agreement or by making some sort of connection with the author of the article, as if to say, “I know exactly what you mean.” They remind me that I’m not alone. Teaching can be very isolating at times and it’s easy to think that you’re the only one going through what it is you’re going through, while the opposite is true. Many, *many* people have experienced, are experiencing, or will experience what you’re going through and it is helpful to talk about it, or read about it. So even though these are not refereed, what they offer is valuable and credible. Being aware of current instructional strategies can be the difference of being a good teacher and a great one.

As I proceed down this path to find a connection between *parental involvement and gifted students,* I can only assume that there is an abundance of information, theories, statistics, research, and studies that all suggest a direct connection. But, it would be foolish of me to think that with all the researchers that say there is indeed a connection, there will be just as many that say the opposite is true. I’m heading into the thick of it, excited, nervous, maybe even a bit scared, but I know that during this whole process I will be learning something of interest and of value by those who have come before me. Constructing a literature review will keep my research organized in a way that will be useful, efficient, and vital to my final product.